the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956 was introduced.

In 1972, the Central Schemes of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) was introduced to improve the living environment of slum dwellers by providing minimum basic facilities. The scope of the EIUS Scheme was enlarged in 1974 and the scheme was made an integral part of the Minimum Needs Programme and was transferred to the State Sector in April 1974. The per capita assistance permissible under EIUS which was initially fixed at Rs. 120/- in 1972 was raised upto Rs. 800/- in 1995.

In August, 1996 a scheme of National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was introduced to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State/UTs for the development of Urban Slums. Under this scheme, funds are being allocated annually by the Planning Commission and releases are being made by the Ministry of Finance to States. The ACA released under this scheme can be utilised to provide physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community infrastructure, community primary health care, social amenities like pre-school education, adult education, maternity & child health and primary health care etc. It also has a provision of shelter upgradation. Under this scheme, during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 250.01, Rs. 290.99 and Rs. 353.57 crores respectively were released by the Central Government to all States/UTs. For the year 1999-2000, Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 385.08 crores out of which upto Nov., 99 Ministry of Finance has released an amount of Rs. 238.59 crores to States.

DDA to construct house in Delhi

620. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has decided/proposed to construct residential houses in Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the areas identified and when it is likely to be announced;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give preference to the Government employees in the residential schemes in view of acute shortage of Government accommodation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas in which flats are being constructed are Rohini, Shalimar Bagh, Narela, Sarita Vihar, Vasant Kunj, Peeragarhi, Dwarka. etc. The Registration Schemes likely to be announced shortly.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Requirement of Houses in Urban Areas

621. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the requirement of houses in the urban areas of the country;

(b) what would be the requirement in urban areas;

(c) how far the proposed 10-Point fiscal plan for stremlining the growth in housing sector is helpful in overcoming the housing problem; and

(d) what would be the estimated expenditure in the implementation of the programme of meeting the full assessed requirement of houses and the period over which the scheme is feasible to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the projections of housing shortage made by the NBO/Working Group of Planning Commission on Urban Housing for 9th Plan based on 1991 censes data, the housing shortage is assessed at 7.18 million for Urban Areas in 1999.

(c) and (d) Certain fiscal concessions have been granted in the Union Budget 1999-2000 to accelerate the pace of house construction in the country. So far no study has been made to assess the impact of these concessions. Nevertheless, some HFIs have noted a spurt in demand for housing loans. Accordingly HUDCO has fixed an annual